

The highlight of this year's military program has been the return of Military Science instruction to the academic year. This decision challenged the Department of Military Instruction (DMI) to develop and package eight new MS courses, one for each cadet semester. My compliments to the DMI team, as they have done a superb job of capturing the concepts essential to our profession in courses which are inspiring and motivating.

The Cadet Leader Development System states that focused preparation for a challenging developmental experience, followed by reflection, provides individual growth. That is the model we have used successfully for years in our Cadet Summer Training (CST) activities, and that is exactly how we've designed the new military science curriculum. With CST as the developing experience, we have designed the first semester courses to provide opportunities for cadet reflection on summer experiences and for study of Officership, Army values and ethics. The second semester course design shifts to prepare cadets for their summer experiences through leader development exercises and the study of tactics. A dedicated faculty of DMI officers and NCOs teach over 4000 cadets both semesters. Each MS course consists of 20 lessons of standards-based instruction, and is reinforced by the integration of constructive and virtual simulation, mandatory monthly Cadet Knowledge for all classes, guest lecturers, and panel discussions.

Plebe Year begins with MS101, *Introduction to the Army*, which requires cadets to reflect upon their Cadet Basic Training experience in terms of the Army Values, the Warrior Ethos, and the Army culture. They also discuss their development from civilian to cadet, from Reception Day to the end of Cadet Basic Training. This year, CSM Mary Sutherland, the USMA CSM, inspired the class with her discussion on soldiering, Army values and Officer/NCO relationships. MS103, *Introduction to Warfighting Skills*, provides second-semester Plebes with a foundation

of tactical knowledge necessary for success during Cadet Field Training (CFT). We introduce cadets to dismounted squad operations and small-unit command and control skills as they prepare for the demands of CFT. Unlike the other MS courses, teams of highly professional DMI NCOs teach the MS100-level courses.

MS201, *The Commissioned Army Leader*, comes on the heels of Cadet Field Training (CFT), where Yearlings have met the challenge of numerous pre-commissioning soldier skills, competed for the RECONDO badge, and met the challenges of being a Team Leader. MS201 allows the newly-promoted cadet corporals to explore the concept of officership, its relationship to the Army leadership, and the importance of character development in leaders. MS201 also provides a framework for cadet development in moral and ethical reasoning by examining character development and employing the ethical decision-making process in Army scenarios.

MS203, *Fundamentals of Tactics*, is designed to expand the Yearlings' understanding of the skills learned in MS103 and practiced at Camp Buckner. Aimed at honing cadet tactical leader skills, this course focuses on Troop Leading Procedures and the tactical decision-making process to prepare them for service with the field Army the following summer. This year, we will also bring in a battalion commander with recent combat experience in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom to inspire Yearlings with a discussion of small unit leadership in the most current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. This course also introduces cadets to the "Close Combat USMA" software, a modification of the "Close Combat Marine" program, for use in tactical decision-making exercises and basic tactics practical exercises.

During their third year at USMA, these cadets serve as cadet NCOs within the Corps of Cadets. To reinforce this stage of their development, Second Class cadets are introduced to the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps and its responsibilities in small-unit leadership MS301, *Small*

*Unit Leadership.* Cadet Sergeants reflect on their experiences with NCOs during Cadet Summer Training and analyze how small-unit leaders train and lead. During the course, cadets use their summer experiences to analyze how leaders build team cohesion, and the leader's role in enforcing professional and ethical standards in a unit. To further reinforce the critical importance of ethics, former Prisoners of War, WO1 Young and CW2 Williams, will discuss the Code of Conduct and their experiences in captivity during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MS303, *Combined Arms Warfare*, continues to build on cadet tactical skills and introduces the cadet to combined arms warfare, where they must apply offensive and defensive tactical principles at the platoon level. Cadets must demonstrate an understanding of the elements of combat power and the battlefield operating systems. We also introduce fundamentals of the Army Training Management System to prepare cadets for their leadership roles as Cadet Officers during the upcoming CST. To further refine cadets' tactical skills, we utilize the "Steel Beasts II" game to practice tactical movements and perform basic tactical operations.

First Class cadets synthesize their understanding of Army Leadership doctrine and analyze Army leader skills in MS401, *Transition to the Officer Corps*. The course examines officer skills the cadets observed as platoon leaders in Army units during CTLT or as an officer on either a CBT or CFT detail. A highlight of this course is the Junior Leader Panel, consisting of 15 lieutenants of various branches with recent combat experience who interact with the cadets over several days.

In keeping with the Cadet Leader Development Model, MS403, *Transition to the Army*, prepares the Firsties for their first experiences as an officer, covering such topics as Officer Basic Course/Basic Officer Leader Course requirements, updates on current and recent Army

operations, joint operations, and post information agencies normally available at their first duty station.

It's clear we are headed in the right direction with this effort. We now have the opportunity to engage cadets weekly on professional topics, as well as bringing in guests with special expertise. Summer training experiences are firmly connected to our military science core program, making a progressive, sequential, developmental experience over a cadet's 47-month development period at USMA. The new Military Science program has received great reviews from our cadets, staff, and faculty and no doubt adds synergy and continuity to our program. We are confident that the new program will produce leaders better prepared for the challenges our young leaders face in the Contemporary Operating Environment.